



1st Indian drilling tech conference announced

SPEAKING AT A press meet in New Delhi on 1 December, ONGC Chairman & Managing Director **Subir Raha** announced India's hosting of the first ever Indian Drilling Technology Conference & Exhibition, scheduled for 16-18 October in Mumbai. The conference theme will be "Advanced Drilling Technology: Opportunities in India." About 1,000 delegates from around the world are expected at the landmark event, and technical papers under more than 16 categories will be presented.

At the announcement event, Mr Raha, who is chairing the conference, praised the support that associations such as IADC and the Society of Petroleum of Engineers (SPE) have given to the industry. He pointed out IADC's RIG PASS training course has been made mandatory for all ONGC drilling crews.

Mr Raha also highlighted three key

aspects of drilling operations. First, he pointed out the importance of adopting innovative drilling technology and said ONGC has embarked on exploration programs in deepwater drilling. Second, he praised the ONGC crisis management team, citing three instances of recent blow-outs. These situations underlined the importance of safety in drilling, Mr Raha said. Third, he recognized ONGC's commitment to eco-friendly operating procedures. He cited recent work by the organization's Dehradun-based Institute of Drilling Technology on developing an environmentally friendly drilling fluid.

Also present at the announcement were IADC South Central Asia Chapter Vice Chairman **Arun Karle**, as well as SPE Director of Operations-Middle East **Ross Davidson** and SPE's New Delhi Section Chairperson and ONGC Director of Offshore **NK Mitra**. ■

South Central Asia Chapter elects 2006 officers

THE IADC SOUTH Central Asia Chapter announced **UN Bose** as its 2006 chairman during the 14th Technology Meet held 11 November in Mumbai, India. Other newly elected officers are **Reji Abraham**, vice chairman; **KL Batra**, secretary; **Vikram Ghorpade**, joint secretary; **MK Soni**, treasurer; and **Anil Jaggi**, safety director.

IADC President **Lee Hunt** and Vice President-Middle East & Asia **Ken Fischer** also spoke at the event, held to discuss the emerging role of state-of-the-art and innovative technologies in achieving safe and efficient drilling operations. **Subir Raha**, Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC, was the evening's chief guest. ■

Newly elected chairman going on the road for IADC

AS IADC'S 2006 chairman, **Claus Chur** of KCA-DEUTAG will be traveling around the world in the coming year on behalf of the association's continuing efforts to support the drilling industry. He will begin with providing opening remarks at the IADC/SPE Drilling Conference in Miami on 21 February. Following is a tentative itinerary for Mr Chur on behalf of IADC:

- IADC Spring Directors Luncheon & Meeting, 8 March, Houston, Texas;
- South Louisiana Chapter Meeting, 9 March, Lafayette, La.;

- IADC Houston Chapter Meeting, 18 April, Houston, Texas;
- IADC North Sea Chapter Safety Banquet, 12 May, Aberdeen, Scotland;
- IADC World Drilling 2006, 20-25 June, Prague;
- IADC Annual Meeting, 19-23 September, San Antonio, Texas;
- SPE/IADC India Conference, 16-20 October, Mumbai, India;
- Southern Arabian Peninsula Chapter Golf Tournament, November/December, Dubai. ■

Leading-edge tech at 2006 fluids conference

THE HOUSTON CHAPTER of the American Association of Drilling Engineers will hold the 2006 AADE Fluids Technology Conference on 11-12 April in Houston. For the first time, IADC is co-hosting the biennial event – one of the industry's largest fluids-specific conferences. "We're driven to present the newest, leading-edge technology at our conference," said conference chairman **Dave Clark**, of **Bake Hughes Drilling Fluids**.

The 1½-day event will cover diverse topics related to fluids, including drilling performance, waste management, well-bore stability and much more. "Attendees won't hear the same thing they heard last time. We have a fresh conference every time," Mr Clark emphasized.

The conference will also highlight the AADE's cooperative effort with universities. Students from five universities will present 10 posters on current research at the schools and answer questions from industry experts and committee judges regarding their work.

Additionally, 35 exhibitors are expected at the conference, including chemical companies, equipment suppliers and service companies.

Due to growth in the industry and business activity, organizers are expecting to top the turnout at the 2004 conference. Pre-registration begins this month, and more information can be found online at <http://www.aade.org/houston>. ■

Silent auction seeking donations for good cause

THE IADC HOUSTON Chapter is holding its annual silent auction and dinner/dance on 3 February benefitting the Just Like Us Foundation, which supports the T H Rogers school for severely disabled children. The chapter is looking for donated items for the silent auction.

Last year's event resulted in the largest donation to date, \$47,500, which included \$37,000 raised at the silent auction plus an additional donation by the chapter.

To donate items, please contact the chapter's auction co-chairman, **Paul Kessler**, of **Nabors Offshore Drilling Inc**, at 281-874-0406. ■